

Edward H. Bowers House  
302 Logan Blvd.  
Llysven Neighborhood  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5899

HABS  
PA  
7-ALTO  
121-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EDWARD H. BOWERS HOUSE

HABS

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7-ALTO,

121-

HABS No. PA-5899

Location: 302 Logan Blvd.

Date of Erection: 1913

Description: The Llyswn vocabulary of yellow brick and painted wood shingles has many expressions. This is perhaps its most self-consciously Neoclassical manifestation. The full front porch has grouped Doric columns on stone piers linked by elaborate balustrades, dentil trim at the cornice, and a central pediment announcing the entry. Tall pilasters frame the equally tall front door with its large rectangular light. Cottage windows on each side of the symmetrical facade are large square lights topped by bevelled-glass transoms under segmental arches. The two front windows on the second story are modern replacements, connected by a wide, plain frieze that encircles the house under the projecting eaves, which are further punctuated by simple modillions. A hipped dormer projects forward from the peak of the hipped roof, echoing the lines of the pediment over the porch stairs. Small paired columns and pilasters frame the band of windows in the dormer. In relation to the boxy proportions of the house, the tall, slender chimney on the north facade is unusually fine. Detailing on the interior is far more elaborate, from heavily carved and panelled woodwork to stained-glass windows, a colonnade of ornate Corinthian columns, and a large romantic mural in the front parlor, painted on the wall by the home's original owner, its gilded wood frame nailed in place.

History: Andrew J. Engle, Sr., proprietor of the Engle Hotel on 10th Avenue, traded this lot in 1911 to a sign painter named Edward H. Bowers in exchange for Llyswn lot 5, block 9. The house first appears on tax records in Bowers' name in 1913. Bowers, who was single, was probably something more than a mere sign painter, if the painting he created on the parlor wall is reliable testimony. He sold his home for \$6,000 in 1919 to Fred J. Albright, president of Rose Hill Cemetery Company and vice president of Hinman Brothers produce wholesalers, and his wife, Lillian. She died in 1958, and after his death a year later the heirs sold the property to a local lawyer for \$10,000. The current owners bought it in 1984.

Sources: Maps: 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 110/564, 202/182, 265/514, 300/498, 300/500, 780/428, 902/451, 1102/392.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswn (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.